MONTEREY NEWS

January 2016

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The Town

by Jill Pajka

Notes on select board meetings from November 30 through December 17

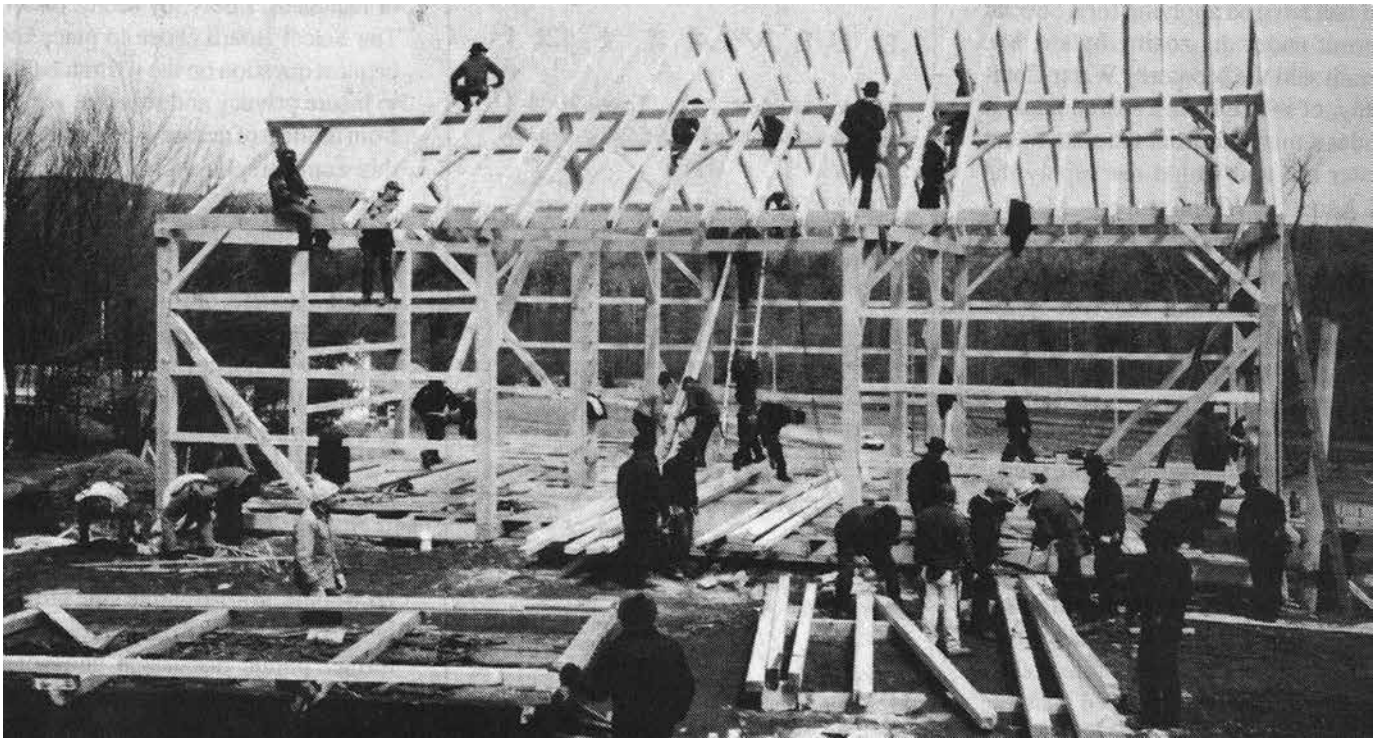
Private Noise—Public Problem

On November 30, the select board met with Pat and Richard Edelstein, Louise Amstead, and Judy Hayes to discuss the continual and upsetting noise affecting the residents in close proximity to Monterey's private firing ranges. "Where are our rights?" questioned Richard Edelstein. "This [the noise produced by the private firing ranges] has been going on for years, but it seems to have escalated this year, for one to two hours at a time. We can't carry on a conversation!" Edelstein elaborated that he understands the constitutional right to own weapons and to use those weapons on one's own property, but proclaimed seriously, "We also have the right to peace and quiet."

The Edelsteins, Amstead, and Hayes agreed that while the shooting does not happen every day, when it does, it can go on for hours at a time. The Edelsteins further maintained that, because of the frequent and disturbing intrusion of the gunshots, they haven't been able to enjoy their own private porch for the past two years. "It's not a good thing," acknowledged Pat Edelstein. "It makes your blood pressure go up."

This issue has become a reoccurring problem between Monterey residents nearby the firing ranges but a just solution for all involved has yet to be discovered. "We are trying to get the board of health involved … if it's a health issue, it becomes more important," select board chair Scott Jenssen insisted. "But other than that, I'm kind of at a loss.… We've tried talking to the planning board, the police, but, what do you do when the rights [of Monterey residents] conflict?"

This fall the board has attempted to limit the amount of shooting by seeking support from chief of police Gareth Backhaus. Acknowledging these attempts, the Edelsteins, Amstead, and Hayes argued that the firing range is actually being used by Monterey policemen for firing practice and by friends of the policemen for what seem like "shooting parties." Furthermore, the group told the select board that the



Kathleen Taylor-Lacey

In 1996 a large crew of Mennonite men from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New York arrive at Gould Farm to raise a new sheep barn frame to replace the one destroyed in the tornado of July 1995. *See page 19.*

firing range of concern has access to a police scanner. Explained Richard Edelstein, "By the time we call in a complaint and the police decide to check it out, they [the firing range shooters] already know about it and have stopped before the police arrive." Still, the select board encouraged the group, and all others that are affected by the noise of firing ranges in the area, to call the police anyway. With a steady stream of citable concerns from Monterey residents, their hope is that the impacts of the noise can be taken seriously by the police department, and by those creating them.

The Edelsteins, Amstead, and Hayes advocated that Monterey create a restriction on firing weapons in residential areas, suggesting a rule that would restrict firing to occur at least two hundred yards from a resident's closest neighbor. The select board was forced to counter this idea, saying that there is no ordinance governing distance between residences for private firing ranges, only an operating schedule. They also remarked that most of the town of Monterey is residential, making such a restriction unfeasible.

Chief Backhaus confirmed the board's remarks by stating that a person is indeed allowed to have a firing range or target shoot on their property … no matter how close it may be to a neighboring home. MGL Chapter 269, Section 12E, stipulates that while a weapon must not be discharged within five hundred feet of another residential dwelling, it excludes target shooting with the permission of the owner of the property where the target shooting occurs.

Jenssen encouraged the group to compose a notice to be published in the *Monterey News*. "With thirty to forty concerned citizens, involving summer people and full-time residents, you guys could gather together as citizens to make a small committee and voice for yourselves with a letter of concern," he explained. "This could create a dialogue between the ranges and the homeowners and attract the attention of the board of health and the police department."

Chief Backhaus also responded to the comments about Monterey police using private firing ranges, stating that he was the only law enforcement officer to qualify [use the range for the police gun qualifying course] on the Fox Hill Road firing range last month. He noted that, typically, the Tryon's gravel bed/ firing range is utilized for qualifying, but at that time, it hadn't been available. He also confirmed that all qualifying ammunition purchased, stocked, and used by the police department is logged. In the future, it is agreed that our police officers will no longer use the firing range on Fox Hill Road.

Earlier this month, Monterey's town counsel was consulted on the recent noise complaints. He advised that the board has no jurisdiction to regulate or restrict residents from shooting on their own property. It was also stated that, with the exception of nuisance dogs, while there are statutes that address the type of noise created by firing ranges and the like, the select board is not the proper venue for petitioning for assistance with those noise complaints. All noise complaints that have been brought to the select board and to the Monterey town counsel are now considered closed.

One Bridge, Two Bridge

In late November, the New Marlboro Road bridge reopened. Select board member Kenn Basler announced that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (MASSdor) will do a final inspection and rating. Board member Steve Weisz brought up the idea of a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new bridge, but the other select board members noted that it probably wouldn't happen. "I'm not positive people would go to a ribbon-cutting this time of year," chuckled Basler. "They'd rather just drive on it." But given the recent weather we've been having, perhaps people wouldn't be as opposed to an outdoor bridge celebration after all.

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The next bridge in Monterey set for repair and renovation is the Curtis Road bridge. Basler explained that while the bridge's current foundation is considered good quality, it's been reported that the steel components could use some work. More information on these plans will arise in the coming months.

Compactor Grant Money

Select board member Kenn Basler excitedly announced that Monterey will receive up to $7,500 in grant monies for a compactor to collect cardboard at the transfer station. "We're the only town to have received this sort of grant money," he exclaimed. "It's fantastic!" The board discussed possible other uses for the money, but Basler advocated that, because we still have the Master Garbologist company working with the town and the transfer station, he'd rather not spend the money on anything but the compactor for now. Basler explained that in addition, the town was granted up to $325 for education materials to publicize the new garbage and recycling drop-off collection program.

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Monterey School Committee

Earlier this month, the select board discussed the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) assessment issue and the memorandum of understanding (MoU) proposed by the five towns. The Monterey School Committee's lawyer had originally advised the committee not to sign the MoU, determining that it was not yet legal. The select board members also received the other four town's agreement to the MoU and have agreed that it is ready be signed and submitted. The board accepted the MoU, as written by Nat Yohalem and Charlie Flynn, and Melissa Noe agreed to pass the information along to the towns of Alford, Sheffield, New Marlborough, and Egremont.

Also this month, Kenn Basler recounted his conversation with Monterey School Committee representative Maria Rundle regarding the status of the Monterey School building and the early childhood development committee's future program plans. He reported that Rundle agreed to follow-up with Superintendent Dave Hastings for information on both the building and the program. Following Basler's updates, Steve Weisz agreed to investigate another option for the future school program that involves placing a modular facility on the Community Center grounds.

New Marlborough Thank-You

On November 30, the Monterey School Committee received a gracious letter from the New Marlborough select board, thanking the committee for their efforts to reduce the school budget in order to resolve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) assessment issue of the past few months. The New Marlborough select board also thanked Smitty Pignatelli for his leadership and his role in helping the five towns of the SBRSD—Alford, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Egremont, and Monterey—come to a fair and reasonable solution.

MBI and WiredWest Issues

On December 7, the select board received both a press release and a written response from WiredWest, directed to the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI), in reaction to recent issues raised by MBI. The board discussed the current conflict, agreeing not to sign or consider any contracts involving the broadband plans for Monterey until there has been a resolution.

Later in the month, Larry Klein, Monterey's alternate representative to the WiredWest board, met with the select board to voice his concerns over the present situation with MBI. "We want to protect our town," he began. "If MBI gets their way, not one penny will go back to the towns. It's either going to Boston or

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THANK YOU!

Canada!" According to Klein, MBI has cut WiredWest out of the regional fiber-optic network design plans for Western Massachusetts, including the plans for Monterey. He explained that what had originally been agreed to be a team-effort between WiredWest and MBI to build the services together, has changed entirely. Klein believes that MBI created an alternate plan after realizing that WiredWest was determined to design the services for "green towns" in a way that would distribute money back into the towns utilizing the network, instead letting it flow back to the state. According to Klein, MBI opposes this model completely and will now no longer involve WiredWest in their plans until the designs are solidified and ready to be built.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Monterey citizen Adam Chait from Berkshire Fiber Connect. Chait inquired of Klein and to the select board, "As a resident, why isn't the town looking into other options?"

Klein argued that the townspeople of Monterey voted to become a member of the WiredWest build-out and that they would again have to vote to move Monterey out of WiredWest. Klein acknowledged that the town of Otis followed that procedure—voting to be in WiredWest, then voting to be out of WiredWest—and now is considering another option.

Chait continued, "Seven years have gone by and nothing's happened." The board and Klein shrugged, acknowledging that the plans for a wireless network for Monterey have taken a long time, but it is to be expected due to amount of red tape involved.

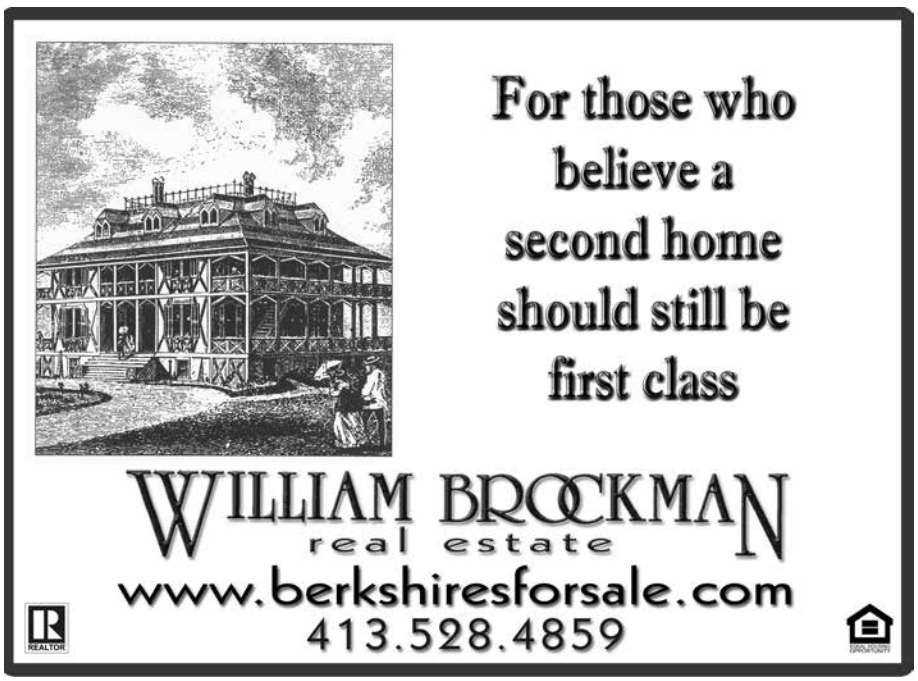
Board member Scott Jenssen questioned Chait's argument, inquiring if he was speaking for his company. Chait said he was advocating for the town as a resident, stating, "Look, I've made an offer to the town of Monterey, as have other companies, but again, this isn't about my view of this situation as a company. What I'm saying is that whether it's my company or other companies, which I can easily give you a list of, there are options available."

The meeting with Klein ended with the board acknowledging that the situation with WiredWest and MBI is still in need of a resolution. Monterey will continue to be a part of WiredWest in the hopes that in the weeks to come, the plans for the fiber-optic network and its state-provided support will come to a fair and open solution.

See page 8 for WiredWest's comments.

Heat Flash

As of December 30, the average daily temperature at the Pittsfield airport weather station was 41°. Last year the average temperature in December was 30°.



Monterey Library News

It is time for an update about the planning and design grant the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded us. We are at the halfway point of the grant and now the fun begins! Thanks to all who attended the forums, filled out the survey, and served on the building needs committee. Most especially thanks to Karen Klopfer, our former bookmobile librarian who took all of that information and helped the library by writing a building program that outlines what services the Monterey Library will be offering for the next twenty years.

The library commissioners approved the program, and we immediately set out to find the two most important players, other than ourselves, who will put all the pieces together and help us update our facility. We advertised, interviewed, and negotiated a contract with Dan Pallota of P-3, who immediately took on the role of owner's project manager. Dan had already been contracted to do the same for both Deerfield and Erving, so he knows his way around the laws and regulations of Massachusetts and the board of library commissioners. He will keep us on track, and his experience with dealing with designers will help us avoid those first-time mistakes that result from not doing this work every day.

Dan immediately advertised for designers, and the committee interviewed four very strong applicants. Our owner's project manager had been an easy choice. Choosing a designer was much more of a challenge. All four applicants were aware of the site difficulties of the present library and were excited about

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Dentist

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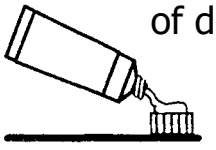

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

solutions that would give Monterey a building that everyone could use in a safe, accessible, and energy-conscious manner. The building committee, appointed by the library trustees, decided to recommend a contract with EDM (edm-ae.com), ably represented by Tim Eagles, who has worked on several libraries, including Williamstown and West Stockbridge. The library trustees voted to negotiate with EDM.

The first steps will be examining not only the present site but other parcels of town land to determine if there is merit to moving the library. After a site has been determined (and thanks to all of you who have already made your wishes known by taking that survey or attending the forum), all of the other data will be examined and the designers will help us plan for a building that will serve the many functions of today's public library. We will of course have to diligently examine many options. Please feel free to express your opinions to us.

As some of you who travel must have observed, public libraries are taken for granted in areas like Massachusetts where there is a strong tradition. If you find yourself in an area without one, you realize how important it is to our community to have a strong library. Libraries are not just buildings with books, as the unknown people who designed our present building believed. They proudly built a library and even wrote to friends and neighbors about how good it was to have such a hallowed institution in their little village. The reading room and stacks have been adapted and modified over the past eighty years in ways that were inconceivable to anyone in the 1930's. That was possible because of the support of the community. Now that support should be rewarded with a design that will answer all the needs of the community—and just maybe show the world that a small town can care enough to have a full-service library that helps bind together all of us who are connected to Monterey together. Thank you for your past support, and we promise to do our best to continue to improve our services, as we have for all these years.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

Library Trustee Needed

The Monterey Library Board of Trustees is looking for someone to fill a vacant seat until town elections in May, at which time the remainder of the two-year term will be on the ballot. In the meantime, the library is in the midst of an exciting planning and design grant. If you have a passion for the future of the library, have a couple hours to spare for a monthly Monday evening meeting, and are willing to bring your energy and ideas, we'd love to have you. Please send a brief email ,including a statement about yourself and your vision for the role of the library in Monterey, to montereylibrary@gmail.com by January 11.

—Lisa Smyle, Chair
Board of Trustees
Monterey Library

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From the Tax Collector's Office

The fiscal year 2016 real estate and personal property bills for the third quarter have been mailed and are due February 1, 2016. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office at 528-1443 x117. The fourth quarter tax bills will be mailed in late March and are due May 2, 2016. If you wish, you may pay both the February and May amounts at this time.

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245. 528-1443 x115. Abatement applications must be received in the assessors' office by February 1, 2016.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to montereyma.gov and click on "Pay Real Estate Taxes Online." You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2016). The bank will assess a minimal fee of $0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch
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Lake Garfield Maintenance District Meeting

Approximately fifty people attended a December 12 meeting to discuss moving forward with forming a maintenance district for Lake Garfield. If approved, this district will function like the Lake Buel district and many other lake districts in Massachusetts. It would be run entirely by the property owners with lakefront or deeded access rights to the lake who are assessed, for the purpose of this lake district, separately from the town's general tax assessments. The district can be created or dissolved by the property owners. The property owners vote to appoint a prudential committee, approve a yearly budget, and then assess the landowners accordingly. If the district budgets zero dollars, then the owners are assessed nothing.

The purpose of the district is to have adequate funds to maintain a healthy Lake Garfield.

The process to create the district is as follows:

- Public meetings are held, and emails and snail-mail sent to the property owners to see if there is a consensus to move forward.
- A warrant is presented at the town meeting (February special meeting or May annual town meeting).
- A bill is passed for the "act" by the state legislature and signed by the governor.
- The select board calls a public meeting of the property owners. In order to pass, there must be a quorum (50% of the property owners) and the act must be accepted by a two-thirds vote of that quorum. Then the district would be formed.
- The property owners then vote to elect the prudential committee and approve a budget.

Present at the meeting was Dr. Ken Wagner our lake scientist, and Elizabeth Goodman the lawyer, who are guiding us on the drafting of the act. All information on the meeting and a draft of the act is on the lakegarfieldma.com website.

A lively discussion ensued, and in the end approximately 90% of those present agreed to move forward. Strong support was voiced for the need to create this district so that we can have a reliable source of funds for the needs of the lake. Creating the district would improve our chances of getting grants and low-interest loans.

A few people were concerned that some people could not afford even the $100–200 anticipated annual assessment for a $500,000 property. Some were concerned that the money would not be well spent. Many voiced their concern that the state and the town should be contributing to the costs for the lake. Many felt we should find a way to involve the non-lake residents in the district.

Although the meeting was not meant to discuss weeds, we did "get into the weeds."

It was explained that any action to control the weeds needs to be approved by the conservation commission in town and by the state agencies that protect the wetlands and the native plants and wildlife.

The next step will be to see when the town will present a warrant at town meeting, either in February or May.

If you have questions or suggestions for editing the draft version of the act, please email michael.germain@bhs.org or rosenhy@gmail.com.

—Michael Germain and Hy Rosen
Friends of Lake Garfield

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Council on Aging

Our parents were right, the older you get the more quickly time flies. This has been true for this council as well. In November 2014 Michael Johnson passed the baton to Maryellen Brown to chair the council. Since then, Maryellen has resigned and Norma Champigney has been appointed.

We started with a "meet-n-greet" last January. Ten people came the morning after a sixteen-inch snowfall. New friends have been made, old friendships reestablished. (Sadly, we now miss Carol Ingher and John Bodner, who were active participants.) We have been busy. The luncheons, plays, Clark Museum visit, Erie Canal trip, the picnic and game at the Pittsfield Suns baseball field, and the Health Fair in October have all been well received. Lots of ideas are becoming plans for 2016, starting with card games this month. (See Pat Salomon's article on duplicate bridge on page 7.) Bridge and pitch will start on Tuesday, January 12, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., in the town hall. Requests are in for mah-jong and chess. Dominos or Trivial Pursuit anyone? We're hoping to have Wii sports returning soon. If you have a card table to donate, please call Norma at 528-0294. It would be appreciated. The council would also appreciate volunteers to help with various events, record-keeping, a resource catalog, getting out to visit neighbors, and helping with the website.

Our formula grant has requested money for emergency repairs or assistance. Also, Monterey expects to share in a pilot grant with Great Barrington and Egremont for a part-time outreach person this year.

Watch for announcements on upcoming events. To get news on an irregular basis, email wpurcell@bcn.net, or call 528-1443 x 247.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Hockey Rink Schedule:

Youth hockey: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 7 to 9.

Adult hockey:

Tuesday and Thursdays evenings from 7 to 9.

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Mt. Everett High School hockey team plays Sunday evenings from 7 to 9.

All other times are shared with figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters—so skate responsibly! Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Dept. at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or

Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor-Skating Rink

Kelly Tryon

The Monterey rink located behind the fire station has been assembled, thanks to the Monterey Fire Company, Monterey Parks Commission, and area volunteers. With a lot of work from volunteers layering the surface with water, plus Mother Nature's co-operation, the rink should be open in January and February, when temperatures usually get well below freezing at night and stay cold during the day. Join us for adult, informal, pick-up, soft-puck hockey games. General skating times are also available.

Duplicate Bridge

The Council on Aging is sponsoring a duplicate bridge game. Cindy Hoogs, the long time leader of the Lenox Community Center duplicate game, will provide guidance and leadership to our new Monterey duplicate start-up. Duplicate bridge is not the place to begin to learn bridge. It is a game in which several teams play the same hands and compete in their scores. It is a little intense, but lots of fun. And what our Monterey duplicate bridge group may lack in competitive spirit, we make up for in congeniality.

We will meet to play at the town hall on Tuesdays, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., beginning Tuesday, January 12.

Our Monterey game requires eight constant players who can make a commitment to play every week. We will have a substitute list for occasional times when regular member participation is impossible. We are looking for additional players as regular weekly members or substitute players. If interested, please call me at 644-9438, email drpatsalomon@aol.com, or text me at 301-254-5298.

—Pat Salomon

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Community Potluck Jan. 20

Alana Chernila

At the December potluck, we had a very festive and enjoyable time with jazz guitarist and singer Mark Caldwell entertaining us. He also said it was nice to be back in Monterey—he was a regular at the music nights at the store in the past.

For January, we switch gears a little. The potlucks are all about food anyway! We have Alana Chernila, who has just published her second cookbook, *The Homemade Kitchen: Recipes for Cooking with Pleasure*. Chernila, a Berkshire native who lives in Great Barrington, has a philosophy of "creating celebration and fun around food." She also has a blog, eatingfromthegroundup.com, and leads cheesemaking workshops with fellow author Margaret Roach.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on January 20, in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

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WiredWest and MBI Negotiations

WiredWest, the cooperative of towns in western Massachusetts working together to build and operate a regional fiber-optic broadband network, has reacted strongly to the December 1 statement by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) denying funding to the WiredWest project. WiredWest found the statement to be based on distortions, unsubstantiated claims, and innuendo in its criticism of WiredWest's plan for the network, and they have issued a point-by-point rebuttal.

WiredWest has been the driving force in moving the last mile project forward— starting with having our towns form municipal lighting plants (MLPs), incorporating the organization, conducting market research, procuring early high-level cost estimates and network design, completing financial modeling, signing up 7,000 subscribers, helping twenty-four towns pass bond authorizations, and putting together an exhaustively vetted business plan and operating agreement. Our citizens are impatient to make this happen. The state needs to stop throwing up unnecessary roadblocks.

The operating agreement is intended to govern WiredWest going forward and to provide for ownership of the network by the towns. Steve Nelson, legal/governance chair of WiredWest, noted that the agreement is the product of an extensive interactive process with WiredWest town representatives, town officials and town counsels, town broadband committees, and other interested parties. "Just when the agreement was reaching its final form with an anticipated signing in January, MBI stepped in to block its implementation," Nelson said. "MBI is trying to control the project, despite the towns providing nearly two-thirds of the funding and repeatedly stating that this is the approach they want to take."

Jim Drawe, vice chair and finance chair of WiredWest, has conducted a thorough and intensive process in leading the development of WiredWest's financial plan. "We began with work done by several MBI consultants and have continually refined it as we got input from town finance committees, experts, and others in the region." Recently WiredWest contracted with CTC, the leading consultancy in the country on municipal broadband networks, to go through WiredWest's financial model with a fine-tooth comb. "CTC suggested several changes which we adopted and which have made the plan even stronger," Drawe said. The report issued by CTC concluded: "The WiredWest financial model has been well designed and is a reasonable portrayal of its business."

Since MBI's December 1 statement denying funding to WiredWest, and WiredWests detailed rebuttal, the board of directors of MBI directed its staff to work with WiredWest to bridge those differences, and then for the two organizations to come back before the board in a joint presentation.

The WiredWest board of directors, with a representative from each of its member towns, voted unanimously at its meeting on December 19 to appoint a select group of representatives from its member towns to negotiate with MBI and resolve differences between the organizations' plans for last-mile broadband deployment in WiredWest towns.

Last week, several WiredWest executive committee members participated in a meeting hosted by MBI in Westborough, and it was agreed that the two organizations would address the specific issues of contention in breakout committees on finance and governance, with meetings in the very near future. WiredWest is also asking for a committee on technology, to work closely with MBI on network design and ensure operational efficiencies are taken into account.

Monica Webb, chair of WiredWest, said: "I am confident that with genuine, open-minded collaboration, the two groups can resolve our differences in last-mile plans and get the process of bringing desperately needed broadband to the unserved back on track. We are all vested in the expeditious achievement of that goal."

—Larry Klein
Monterey Alternate Rep.
WiredWest Board

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Knox Gallery News

A robust and enthusiastic crowd filled the Knox Gallery to capacity on the evening of December 4. The group celebrated the gallery's fifth anniversary and the opening reception of the winter community exhibit, *4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air.* Lively conversation and close viewing of the diverse and varied art seemed to be enjoyed by all! The nibbles catered by Kenn Basler and underwritten by the Friends of the Library were supplemented by delicious sweets and treats brought by many of the contributing artists.

Marya Makuc

Some of the work of forty-one artists showing in 4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air

Maureen Banner

Forty-one talented and inspired local friends and artists found the theme of *4 Elements* to be an impetus for exciting work. In addition to the numerous Monterey artists who participated, contributors from Connecticut, New York, and several neighboring Berkshire County towns submitted work.

The theme was both literally and figuratively referenced in two-dimensions—watercolor, oil, acrylic, pencil, photography—and in hard and soft sculptural and three-dimensional materials, including clay, glass, enamel, metal, stone, and fiber. Several artists worked in mixed media, using quite a variety of materials and several approached the topic conceptually, adding humorous touches.

Participants in *4 Elements* are Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Michael Banner, Orlando Beach, Wendy Benjamin, Teresa Bills, Murray Bodin, Essy Shapiro Dean, Marcia C. Doelman, Karen Farkas, Josephine Freedman, Ellen Grenadier, Michelle Gillett, Christine Goldfinger, Meryl Wilen Greenfield, Brece Honeycutt, Max Husten, Nancy Johnson, Mary Kate Jordan, Tasja Keetman, Richard Kimball, Philip Knoll, Sue Knoll, Sophia Krans, Laraine Lippe, Nadia, Michael Marcus, Pauline Nault, Marilyn Orner, Kit Patten, Marcia Powdermaker, Wendy Rabinowitz, David J. Richardson, Julie Shapiro, Anne Shatas, Rick Schatzberg, Rachel Vine, Kolleen Weinrich, MaryPaul Yates, and Cheryl Zellman.

Our sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped launch this exhibit, and to those who purchased artwork during 2015. Please keep in mind that these purchases have, in fact, a threefold benefit—not only are you treating yourself or someone special to a unique gift, but you are promoting local art and artists! And, of course, twenty-five percent of proceeds from all sales benefit your library and keep the Knox gallery going.

4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air will remain on view through January 29. All our exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery.

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—MaryPaul Yates

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Fire Company Renovations

Mild weather allowed for the Monterey Fire Company to make major headway this fall in its efforts to renovate the fire station.

An all-volunteer crew of fire company members managed to complete the re-siding and trim work on the south and west sides of the thirty-six-year-old building. Only the stonework around the foundation had to be hired out.

Felix Carroll

Stephen Moore

"We've gotten a lot of great comments on how things are looking," said fire chief Shawn Tryon. "I think we're all really happy to see the progress."

Aside from a new metal roof installed four years ago, the station has had no significant work done to it, and it was showing its age.

Possibly as early as January, three new bay doors will be installed in front. The bay doors will be red, set against the slate-gray clapboard siding and white trim.

Residing will continue on the remaining two sides this spring. In the meantime, work has resumed on interior renovations, including in the 623-square-foot addition on the front of the building. The addition was built to create much-needed office space and allow for reconfiguration of interior walls to create a classroom and to renovate the bathrooms and kitchen. Plans also call for adding a hose tower on the rear of the building.

Aside from the exterior cosmetic work, the additions and reconfigurations are prompted by considerable changes in the fire services since the original station was constructed in 1980. Expanded state and federal mandates, including reporting procedures, have pushed the need for modern office space and computer equipment. Tactical and technological changes in firefighting and medical care have intensified certification requirements and the demand for classroom and practical training space.

The Fire Company responds to more than 120 calls each year, the majority of which are now medical emergencies.

For over a year, the members of the Monterey Fire Company have each been contributing their monthly training pay to support a bank loan for the project. Funds raised through the fire company's annual appeal and through a grant from the Salomon Family Foundation are also being used for the project. As the fire house is owned by the fire company, and is not a municipal building, the Town of Monterey cannot directly contribute to the effort. The fire company will ask residents for their continued financial support through its annual appeal letter, which will be mailed in February.

To contribute to the project, please send your contributions to Monterey Fire Company Renovation Fund, c/o Chief Shawn Tryon, P.O. Box 99, Monterey, MA 01245.

— Felix Carroll

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Amazing Progress

Surely you've seen them, the wonderful improvements in appearance, at the Monterey firehouse. The members of the Monterey Fire Company have been putting in long hours to this major renovation. In addition to their labor, the hired work and all materials have been supported by the contributions of all our firemen from their pay for continuing education. It's likely that you, as I, have never noticed the severe deterioration in the sections of the firehouse which have not yet been resurfaced with new siding and stone facing. The firemen have selected materials that are durable, environmentally sound, and quite beautiful.

Our Salomon Family Foundation was able to jumpstart these renovations with two yearly grants. We are all so proud of what they have accomplished. The following members of the Salomon Family Foundation are full- or part-time residents of Monterey: Marc and Eve LaBelle, Julio Rodriguez, Mort and Pat and Teri Salomon, and Deuce, Jazz, Sonny, and Max (our dogs)

Perhaps you'd like to step up and assist the fire company in their renovation project with your own contribution. We are all so lucky to live in a community with a dedicated and expert fire company. Stop by and ask them about it.

—Pat Salomon, MD

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Telling Stories
Monterey's History Project

"When you were growing up here, what did you do for fun?" asked eleven-year old Nadia Makuc, interviewing her aunt, Mari Makuc Enoch. Mari's answer, along with other questions and answers, painted an idyllic picture of a child's life in Monterey.

The stories were told on the day after Thanksgiving, as people gathered at the library to tell stories and listen to them. Best friends Ella Carlson and Marya Makuc started their conversation with shared memories of going to school in Monterey and how their teacher, Mrs. Andersen, was such a positive influence on them. We heard Judy Bidwell Shaw Hayes's recollections of being a young girl and spending summers at Lake Garfield, and her somewhat sad disposition each September when she had to return to Great Barrington. Judy's family history chronicles five generations and continues with her children and grandchildren enjoying summers at the lake. Mickey Jervas talked about how, when, and why she wound up in Monterey running the store, as well as what has kept her here for all these years.

Including the stories recorded before and after the Day of Listening on November 27, we now have more than twelve hours of video storytelling compiled. A DVD is being given to those who were interviewed, with copies also archived in the library. (This is part of the StoryCorp project, as I wrote about in the November issue of the *Monterey News*.)

More recently Mary Kate Jordan sat down with George Emmons to talk about what he did before he arrived here and what he has been doing for the past twenty years in Monterey. Among several of George's "retirement" projects are two hundred articles with his drawings for the *Monterey News*, and his leadership of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery (the only national hatchery run by volunteers).

Wendy Germain

Nadia interview Mari.

"The same way threads are woven into a piece of fabric, the stories of our lives are woven, along with the stories of the land, into the story of our town," remarked Mary Kate.

Next up is to hold an evening of telling the tales of Monterey's Great Gravity Races with its hair-raising and death-defying feats of engineering.

Monterey History is a community project that spans lifetimes, creating bridges between generations and preserving our collective history. Join us at the library for a storytelling on Saturday, January 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. If you have a story to share (and who doesn't?), sign-up at the front desk at the library. You can also sign up to have a story or conversation recorded.

—Wendy Germain

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Return of the Bald Eagle

The population of our national bird has increased dramatically since 1960 with the abolishment of pesticides like DDT, which caused eggshells to be too thin to incubate, in addition to making some eggs infertile. Rachel Carson's whistle-blowing book *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, was the national wake-up call to the damage caused by certain pesticides. That turned the tide of public opinion, and now, a half-century later, the bald eagle is sighted like a phoenix rising out of the ashes, soaring high on gossamer wings over Monterey lakes, rivers, and streams. A pair landed at first light in the tree tops of the hatchery just a month ago to witness the morning ritual of feeding the brook trout in the raceway. Bonner McAllester's last wildlife column reported this sighting.

Bonner, like her late father, David, and not unlike Rachel Carson, has been a literary beacon of environmental awareness for the *News* longer than I have, and previously wrote for the *Berkshire Eagle* from 1986 to 1998. Her first and last articles in the Berkshire Eagle were coincidentally both about eagles, the first on a huge nest in Maine and the last perched over the Housatonic River in Pittsfield. Her column last month reported the pair at the hatchery swooping down for a morning breakfast when Jeff Mosher threw them several dead fish found floating belly-up.

At that moment, an even more meaningful eagle coincidence happened as a large, white, fish tanker truck came up the driveway. It was equipped with an aerator generator coming all the way from Aroostook, Maine, driven by two members of the Mic Mac tribe of Indians. With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife liason for Indian relations, they had arranged to pick up a Yukon strain of Lake Trout. Seventy-five six-to-eight-pound brood fish were donated to help them raise native species of natural food to supplement their diet of poor quality foods, which is causing a high rate of diabetes and obesity among their population. When they saw the eagles filling their craws, they were thrilled because eagle sightings for Native Americans are a very good omen.

An Indian myth tells of the eagle soaring so high in the heavens that it became associated with the god of creation. Eagles have a high cranial ridge over each eye, permitting them to look into the sun, which hurts the human eye. Another legend tell of an eagle that brought salmon to native people during times of famine. The eagle feather itself is considered sacred, awarded for bravery and good deeds, but can only legally be owned

4 Elements:
earth fire water air
winter community exhibition

thru January 30th

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Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

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by Native Americans. The eagle award is the highest given in the Boy Scouts. A Mic Mac prophet predicted that when the eagle returns to their native fishery watersheds, they will once again become a great nation.

These high-flying symbols of environmental awareness are embedded in the deep ancient roots of Native Americans' acute perception of earthly signs. Even today the interpretation of natural signs appears in the descriptive metaphors of their language. Colonial settlers inherited the wisdom of their native neighbors' lore, which is demonstrated in the Bidwell House Museum farming homestead. That agricultural knowledge was handed down to the next generations by he Native American Seed Conservancy with *The Old Farmer's Almanac* as a reference to planetary guidance of the seasons.

The *Monterey News*, with Bonner's vision over the years, and my help, has reported the return of no fewer than seven species of big game. The hatchery is also a landmark of aquatic biology, with a wildlife center, a wildlife skull collection open to visitors, and miles of nature trails with tree identification. Our mission now and into the future is aquatic and environmental education and appreciation, with programs for the youth of the next generation.

—George B. Emmons

P.O. Box 9
Jan and George Emmons

If you are really lucky, you have friends like Jan and George Emmons. The Bidwell House has been hugely fortunate to have Jan and George adopt the historic ("needy") house and gardens as their cause. George became a board member in 2000 and is the longtime treasurer and chair of the buildings and grounds committee. Jan took on care of the gardens, runs the grounds clean-up days, fortifies everyone with lunch and "Bloody Bidwells," prepares the most spectacular hors d'oeuvres and sweets for parties, and wields the weed-whacker like no other. George takes care of everything: a frozen pipe? George finds the plumber. Finances? Call George for help. Plant heirloom apples? Ask George's advice. Wigwam needs restoration? George rebuilds it. Native Americans? George knows the story. Set up a tent? George takes care of it. Artwork for an invitation? George will create it…

With such generous gifts of their time, energy, talents, and resources, I'm sure you will forgive my error in thinking Jan and George belong to the Bidwell House. As I grew into my position in Monterey, I discovered others who think Jan and George are theirs—the fish hatchery, the Piecemakers quilting group, the church, the *Monterey News*, the coffee club… Wait, how can this be? Apparently Jan not only took care of the Bidwell gardens and her own, she also planted the hundreds of bulbs around the river at the post office and the church. How can two people do so much?

When Jan told me a few years ago that they would like to move closer to their children and grandchildren, I wasn't sure how the museum could manage. Lucky for all of us, they didn't move then, and not the next year, or this past year either. The wigwam is fixed again, the "Bloody Bidwells" were even better, others are learning about the Native Americans, the gardens and trails.

Alas, the move is here. Next year will be different, but much to my relief, not without Jan and George. George will be commuting to board meetings from their new home on Buzzard's Bay. He may even telecommute with a new computer set up!

I know I speak for everyone at the Bidwell House Museum—the board, staff, members, friends, neighbors—in thanking Jan and George from the bottom of our hearts for all they do for the Bidwell House to preserve this precious place for the community. We wish them a safe move and the joy of family close by. And I am so glad I can call George about the fire extinguisher service next spring. Thank you for staying on as a board member and as a friend!

—Barbara Palmer,
Executive Director
The Bidwell House Museum

Thank you, Monterey,
for 25 years of your support

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From the Meetinghouse

Bare branches and evergreens aren't the only things reaching for the light this month. My heart's right there with them. We're just a few days past winter solstice as the year starts, technically living with more sunshine but not enough of it yet to really notice. That makes my next sentence an act of faith. I believe in the coming of longer daylight.

That faith is bolstered by experience. This is my seventieth trip through January. At this age, I also know that we usually need some good daylight substitutes, other generators of warmth and hope, until the days get long enough to wrap around our hearts. It helps me get through still-dark January when I remember that Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein, and Julie Andrews were right. These hills are alive with the sound of music. It's happening right here in Monterey and right now, in January, well before the arrival of songbirds in the spring, long before Tanglewood season.

Some of this living music happens under the trees or beneath the open sky. Without snow (none yet as I write this, late last year), small critters scamper through leaf litter. Branches rub against branches when the wind's right. If we get snow and cold at the same time, we'll hear that snow crunch underfoot. Then, as the days grow longer and the light grows stronger, we'll hear clumps of snow slide from tree branches in a post-snow thaw. Woodland animals speak their minds out loud here, too, snow or no snow.

Some of the music generated in these hills is here because of people. It's not only available online, in musicians' homes, or whenever someone's got the sound system cranked up as a car moves along Route 23, though. The hills are alive with the sound of music wherever we stake a claim to life. Did you hear your furnace kick on this morning? How about the hum of the refrigerator? Did you hear yourself, or someone near you, laugh? Did you speak kindly to someone today?

Indoors or out, it takes a little slowing down to really listen to the music of daily life. That's as much an art as any other. It's one worth cultivating, especially in winter.

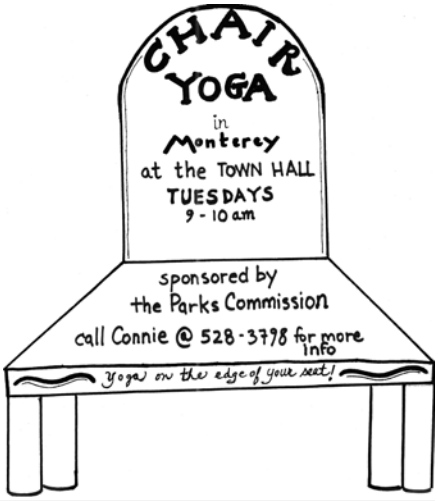
—Mary Kate Jordan

Mary Kate Jordan

Chair Yoga

Introductory Session

On January 12, at 9 a.m., at the town hall meeting room, Connie Wilson, who leads the weekly chair yoga sessions every Tuesday morning, will do an introductory session on chair yoga designed for beginners, followed by a motivating chair yoga video detailing the many benefits of the practice. Tuesday morning chair yoga sessions are sponsored by the Monterey Parks Commission.



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Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—"Monterey News" from 1996

Lightfoot Larry

Lightfoot Larry, restless lad
Ran away from his mother and dad
Ran away from everything he had known
And started' round the world all by his lone.

Lightfoot Larry, restless kid
Beat it for the distance so he did
Hit the open country and the deep sea track
"I won't return," said Larry, "Till I'm coming back."

Lightfoot Larry, restless chap
Wandered all the countries that are on the map
Shivered in the arctic, sweltered on the line
Fought and starved and suffered, and he liked it fine.

Lightfoot Larry, restless lad
Came back home to his ma and dad
All his worldly fortune was some eighteen cents
With a million dollars in experience.

Lightfoot Larry, blithe and brown
Sort of thought he'd marry and just settle down
Now he's got a job, but he won't stay put
Lightfoot-Larry has an itching foot.

Lightfoot Larry, restless lad
Hops off once more for a world-wide gad
With a little fool girl for his gypsy wife
And won't he lead her just an awful life

But when Larry calls, well a girl must go
And I am the girl, so I ought to know.

—Hannah Pixley
September, 1996

Havoc and Foxgloves in Paradise

We might be caught deaf and blind
by a two hundred and fifty
mile an hour whirlwind
wreaking havoc in paradise
waking up the state of mind
But let no man nor romance
say we missed the foxgloves
or failed this fleeting chance
to be with friends and share
a bowl of blossoming circumstance

—Richard Zukowski
June, 1996

Images

On me
Rain presses damp,
seductive
The kiss on my lips,
provocative
The hiss
Of breath on skin,
restive
As the wind's
Wet sinuous brush
evocative
Of touch
Flowing gentle, furious
responsive
A mosaic
Light, love and laughter
native
In my sight
In my heart
The paragon of bliss
definitive
In you

—Lesley Givet
February, 1996

Christopher Carnese, January 1996

speaking of before
over
a plastic tablecloth
with tears in the corners
of our minds
of loves and other
dinners.
of self and other
loves.
curiosity in speaking
i'll be quiet for a while

—M. Miller
January, 1996

Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1996

The following articles, poems, and photos are taken from the Monterey News *in 1996. I hope that both long-time residents as well as newer folks will enjoy the look back to twenty years ago. The Monterey library's archive of* Monterey News *issues from 1996 is available by request for use in the library.*

—Stephen Moore, Editor

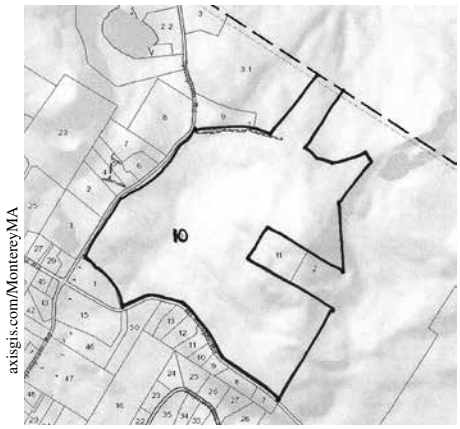
Monterey Land Trust

The biggest story of the year in the *Monterey News* from 1996 was the Monterey Preservation Land Trust (MPLT) really getting rolling. The MPLT had been in existence from the mid '80s, but something happened in early 1996 to catapult it into high gear.

High Ground for Sale

During 1995 Stockbridge developer Tom Spencer made an offer on a large tract of land in the northeast section of town on Mount Hunger, which was accepted by the estate of the late Gay Noe McLendon. The land, approximately 300 acres of high ground north of Lake Garfield, has a total road frontage of nearly six thousand feet along Mount Hunger Road to the south and Tyringham Road to the west. It ranges in elevation from 1,400 feet to 1,750 feet at its highest point.

In November, Mr. Spencer presented the Monterey Select Board with a proposal for building seventeen new houses on this land.



The Mount Hunger property (labeled #10). Much of the adjacent properties also have conservation protections now.

The catch is that this land was covered under Chapter 61, a law which at the time was unique to Massachusetts. The law provides for a classification of undeveloped real estate as forest land under active silvicultural management, meaning that it has a professional forestry plan in place. The McLendon property was in Chapter 61. If land in Chapter 61 is to be sold for residential use, the town has a right of first refusal and is given 120 days to meet the agreed-upon price and purchase the property. The town may also assign its right of first refusal to a duly organized "nonprofit conservation organization"—such as the Monterey Preservation Land Trust—for the purpose of maintaining the major portion of the property in use as forest land.

Joyce Sheffey, who wrote articles for the MPLT, reported that the select board decided not to waive this right of first refusal, feeling that the townspeople should have the opportunity to preserve this large and central open space. The accepted purchase price was $325,000. The board turned to the MPLT to assess the interest in town to raise enough money to match the purchase price, and quickly!

In the February issue, Peter Vallianos, one of the original members of the MPLT (and still on the board in 2016) wrote a lengthy explanation of the the cost to the town coffers of having the McLendon property conserved under Chapter 61. At it's valuation of $500,000, the property would have generated $4,130 in property taxes, had it been sold for development. This potential loss in revenue could be

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made up with an additional tax assessment to Monterey property owners of $2.50 per $100,000. As it was, the Chapter 61 tax protection required that the land be taxed at only 5% of it's value, and so had been returning only $200 to the town to keep it in forestry. As Peter wrote, "It's not possible or desirable to conserve all the remaining undeveloped land in town. But the natural character of Monterey—the trees, meadows, and hills—is easy to take for granted. That's what draws many of us here, inspires and invigorates us day after day. Selective conservation can give some assurance of the permanence of that character. At $2.50 a year, it's cheap at twice the price."

Raising Funds on the Farm

Perhaps to generate a positive attitude towards the MPLT, or perhaps just to celebrate success, in the February issue, on page 7, Joyce Sheffey tells the story of the MPLT's first conservation. Sheldon Fenn, who owned the Woodburn Farm with over a mile of road frontage on Corashire Road, a man who had served the town on nearly every board, who had sponsored a generation of "Woodburn Boys" working on his farm, and on top of everything else, whose poetry had been often published in the *Monterey News*, wanted to find a way to conserve his property, and protect it from development. The land in 1988 had been assessed at $820,000. Such was Mr. Fenn's interest in conservation that he agreed to sell the development rights to the Commonwealth for only $250,000. But the state required private funds to make up 10% of that amount. The MPLT stepped up to the challenge, and "mostly through bake sales and lots of help from many of Shel's friends and hundreds of others" the challenge was met. Mr. Fenn himself pledged $1,000 to the effort.

"Sheldon Fenn's Woodburn Farm was the first major land-conservation success for the Monterey Preservation Land Trust. We cut our teeth on it. All we needed was a guy who was willing to forgo $600,000."

The challenge of the McLendon property was much, much larger, but the MPLT felt it was up to the task.

In early February the MPLT handed the select board a statement saying if the board would assign its right of first refusal to the MPLT, that "we [the MPLT] will upon receipt of ownership of the land immediately start the process of imposing a perpetual conservation restriction with the proviso that there will be no residential or commercial development whatsoever on this land." This was meant to reassure both the board and potential donors of the MPLT's intention to preserve this large open space.

Remarkably, by the beginning of that April, the MPLT had reached the goal, and had completed the purchase of the Mount Hunger property. The new conservation restriction was in the works. (To see a map of the Mount Hunger property, go to MPLT.org.)

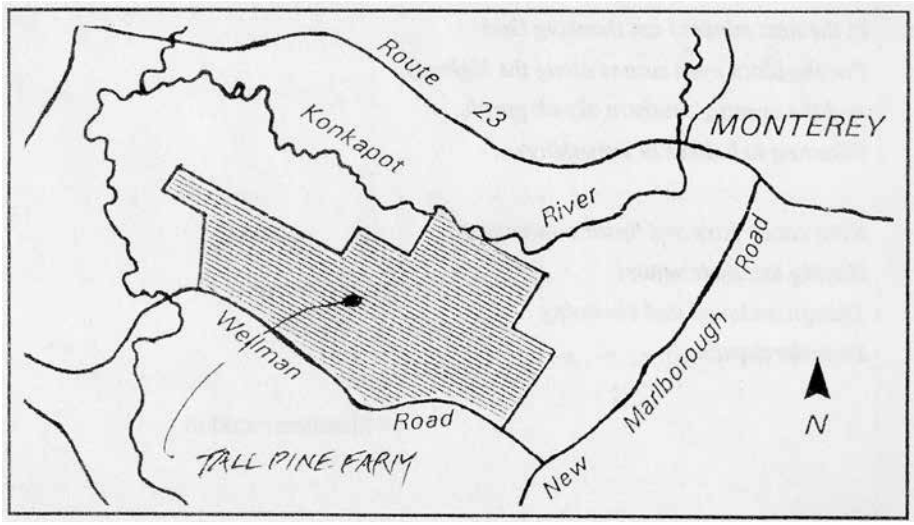
Tall Pine Farm Conserved

In January 1996 news was also published that Bob Thieriot, owner of the 140-acre Tall Pine Farm on Wellman Road, had donated a conservation restriction on the entire property. The property "includes some of Berkshire County's biggest and tallest white pines," some "measuring larger than thirty inches in diameter, and standing over 120 feet tall." *(Note: And that was twenty years ago!)*

The conservation restriction with be held and administered jointly by Berkshire Natural Resource Council and the Monterey Preservation Land Trust.

(Note: As of December 2015, town records show that 1,665 acres, valued at $9,226,023, have some form of deeded conservation restriction in place. Other programs protect agricultural uses. Chapter 61 provides tax relief on lands used for forestry purposes, Chapter 61A on lands used for agricultural purposes, and Chapter 61B on lands used for recreational purposes (which are managed with a forestry plan). In addition there are substantial state-owned lands. The town has maps on display at the town hall that show these various types of properties.)

Maureen Banner, February, 1996



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Wilson-McLaughlin House

Edith Wilson's will was read in November 1995, wherein she made a bequest to the town of her twenty-eight acre property, including her house and Bally Gally, with certain conditions.

In December of 1995 the select board held an open house at the property for all town board and committee members. During the event people took note of the building and property, raised questions and concerns, and generated ideas for the potential use of the property. The select board set up a needs assessment committee, appointing Michele Miller as Needs Assessment Coordinator for the Edith Wilson bequest.

In late April, seventy-five townspeople showed up at a pre-town meeting and spent two hours discussing one ballot article—whether to accept the bequest of Edith Wilson's will. The meeting opened with a presentation by Michelle Miller and architect Robert McMahon who had been hired to draw up a preliminary plan for municipal use of the property. The focus of Mr. McMahon's proposal was for the conversion of the house to a town hall. Estimates prepared included costs for this conversion, as well as renovating and adding on to the existing town hall at the old grange building (its current location).

Basic work necessary for the Wilson house was estimated at $39,000, and a full conversion to a town hall was estimated to cost $163,520. The *Monterey News* article, written by editor Peter Murkett, detailed many of the speaking points brought up concerning both the property and the potential uses. As the meeting wound down, the conversation moved to remembering Edith Wilson, her contributions to the town, and her personality.

On May 3, at the annual town meeting, the article to accept Edith Wilson's gift of property and residences was accepted by a 155 to 68 vote.

In July, the select board set up committees to deal with the Wilson-McLaughlin property. An arts committee would select art objects and antiques to be aquired by the town; a house committee was charged with utility and security issues, as well as maintenance needs; a historical commission was established (under Mass. general laws) to determine the historical significance of the Wilson-McLaughlin property as well as other properties in town; and an anniversary committee to determine how Monterey will celebrate its 150-year anniversary and how the McLaughlin-Wilson property will be a part.

(Note: As of this writing, the Wilson-McLaughlin house is closed in tightly, and hoping for sufficient financial support to get the heating plant installed so interior work can proceed during the winter. The select board is still considering some options for its use, as well as the possibility of selling off the Bally Gally house just to the south.)

Other Stories During 1996

Sheffield Sues Four Towns

In July the select board was served papers of a lawsuit being filed by Sheffield against all of the four smaller towns, also including Alford, Egremont, and New Marlborough, claiming that Sheffield was under-represented on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) committee. The smaller towns invited Sheffield to send a representative to a meeting on August 8 to begin discussing mediation. No one from Sheffield showed up at that time. By late August Sheffield had agreed to mediation without the demand for legal counsel from each town, but would have their counsel present.

At issue was the current makeup of the SBRSD board and compliance with state and federal mandates of one person/one vote, with certain constraints. The current system in place since the formation of the district in the 1950s was a board of ten members, with Monterey having one member and Sheffield having four (the balance of the SBRSD committee was not specified). A US Appeals Court ruling in 1986 required that the voting power of regional school committee members reflect relative populations in the towns that they represent. Sheffield has 44% of the district's residents, so their four members of ten only comprised 40% of the decision-making power.

The last of the scheduled mediation meetings was held on October 7, at which Sheffield, which adamantly wanted "weighted voting" in the district, and Egremont, which steadfastly opposed "weighted voting," could not find a compromise solution. Monterey and New Marlborough were open to some compromises proposed, but by the meeting's end it was clear that the issue would have to go to court. All the towns were very concerned about both the legal expense and the potential for long-term damage to district relations.

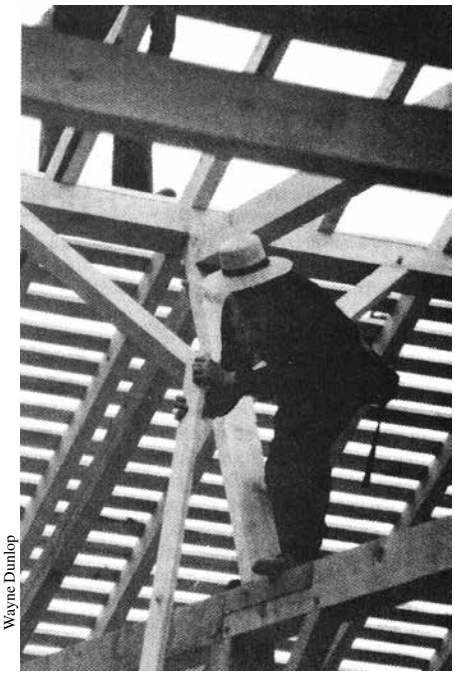
It was reported in December that a potential solution had been developed by Charles Ketchen of the Alford Select Board. His plan would give weighted voting power to each of the ten representatives (for example, each of Sheffield's fours representative would have 1.1 vote, thus 44% voting power). As this would have

to go to special town meetings in all four towns, the district court judge presiding over the lawsuit was asked to postpone the trial for ninety days to give the towns further time to settle the dispute.

(Note: There was no further reporting on the outcome of the negotiations.)

Raising the Barn

In the May issue Donna Burkhart reports that on March 27, forty-two members of Mennonite communities in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia arrived before daybreak at Gould Farm. They were responding to a call from Wayne Burkhart for help rebuilding the farm's sheep barn that had been destroyed during the tornado in 1995. At the end of the day, with the new barn frame raised, and after a hearty supper, these men rode home through the night to return to their own farms, and to



Wayne Dunlop

the work awaiting them there.

Wooden Bridge Proposed

In March MA Highway District One proposed constructing a wooden bridge on Gould Road crossing Rawson Brook (downhill from Tryon's Lowland Farm). This would be a joint project between the state (engineering, material, certain concrete work, and specialized equipment) and Monterey. The state highway representatives presented pictures of a pre-cut engineered bridge in Westfield, which would be appropriate for the twenty-eight-foot Gould Road bridge. That bridge has glue-laminated, pressure-treated beams and decking, which compare favorably with steel in strength and durability. At that time they said the bridge would remain serviceable for twenty, possibly fifty years.

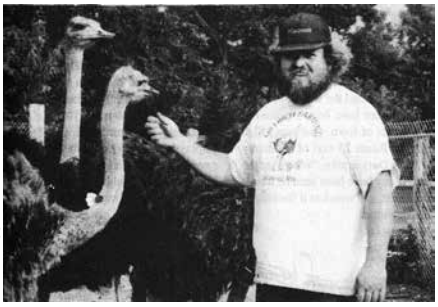
(Note:The wooden bridge is still in very good condition. Monterey can only wonder what happened to this bygone cooperative approach to small-bridge replacement considering the experience this year with the New Marlboro Road bridge closing and replacement.)

Gould Farm's 5th Country Fair

Kim Hines's report on the preparation for the fifth annual country fair, with a theme "The Arts and Healing," had its own theme: of "everything is squeezed to fit." "Two hundred homemade pie crusts are squeezed into the freezer. Hand-colored publicity posters are squeezed onto overflowing community bulletin boards. People are squeezed into unaccustomed roles: parking cars, selling lemonade, pushing raffle tickets. Performers are squeezed into a schedule. Expenses are squeezed to fit an unrealistic budget. And time is squeezed and squeezed from each day as we prepare to 'make something very big' beyond our regular tasks."

Ostrich Farm

In a novel enterprise for Monterey, starting in the ruins of the previous year's tornado, David and Beth Ziegler fenced off a clearing not far from the Hayloft Gallery, built a small barn, and brought home two African black ostriches from a farm in distant Ohio. They were thinking of raising the ostriches for meat or the breeding market. They're big—the males can be seven to nine feet tall and weigh as much as 320+ pounds. But that's not the only reason to be interested in these birds, the fastest land birds in the world, who are able to run more than forty mph. The Zieglers were planning a trip to the racetrack in Saratoga, NY , and then perhaps to the Big E in Springfield, MA, in September, to watch ostriches race.



Maggie Leonard

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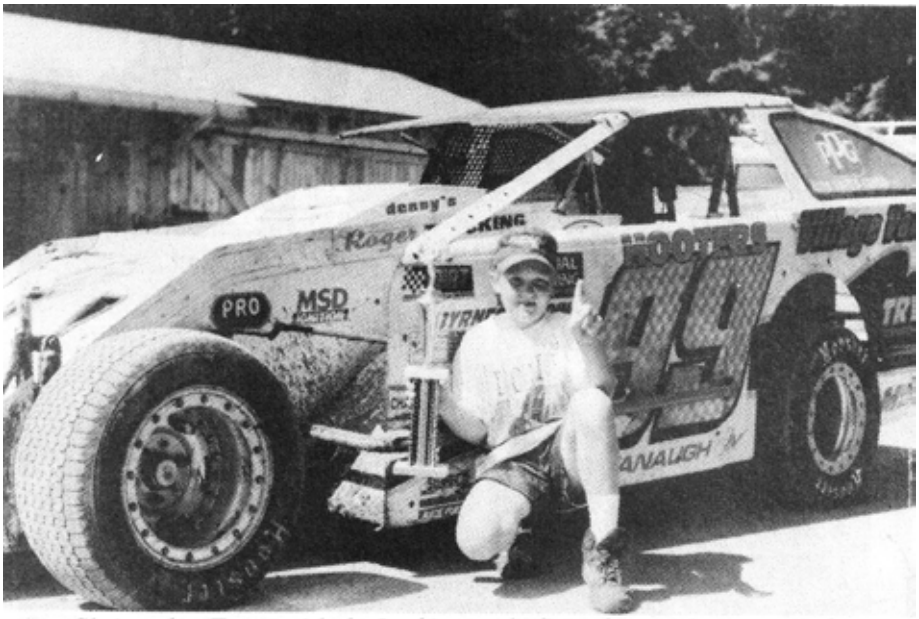
Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1996



Christopher Tryon with the Larkin team's first-place main event trophy taken this summer at Lebanon Valley.

Monterey Motorsports

Back in the day, Monterey was a hotbed of speed demons. A lengthy profile of native and near-native drivers was published in September 1996, written by Tom Rosenthal and Peter Murkett. These are folks move on the other end of the racing world from gravity races.

Bob Hebert was driving two vintage E Type Jaguars for Donovan Jaguars of Lenox. One had just been rebuilt after an accident at the Pocono Race Track when a radiator hose blew at 150 mph causing the car to spin and roll up the high side of a turn after which Bob drifted the car back into the green. This was just one incident in a career of high-speed racing beginning in the early '70s. Bob drove many different types of cars on many different tracks, making quite a name for himself.

Mike Mielke, age seventeen, was racing a brand new 125cc Suzuki RM in motocross racing. In his first season of dirt bike track racing, he broke an ankle in one spill and a wrist another time, but kept on riding. He was working towards the fifty points he needed to move from "novice" to "amateur" ranking.

Tryon men—Leigh, Shawn, and Chris—with Brook Walsh and Mark Amstead, were team members supporting Dick Larkin, who raced at nearby Lebanon Valley, NY every Saturday night. Their car, which started out in life as a Dodge Daytona, had a chassis made in Canada and packed 800 horsepower with an engine running from 4,000 to 7,800 rpm. After each race the car was hauled back to Leigh's garage where, during the following week, they would come and go, stripping it down, doing what needed doing, and getting it back on the track the next week.

Ian Jenkins' long love affair with cars began with a Chevy he rebuilt in college and by the mid '90s had him rescuing a 1954 Jaguar XK 140. With support from Donovan Jaguar in Lenox, the car was totally restored. By 1996 this was not an innocent passion as Ian loaded his Jag into a long black trailer to head off to club racing traveling as far as Wisconsin. One of Ian's many motorsports t-shirts read: "Some people collect art. We race it."

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Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

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Obituaries

- Bjorn Jenssen, 77, (January, p. 26)
- Paul Carnese, Sr.,101, (March, p. 21)
- Alton C. Heath, Sr., 96 (December, p. 22)

People Serving the Town

On the select board:

- Gige O'Connell
- Peter Brown
- Stefan Grotz (retired at town meeting)
- Fred Chapman (elected at town meeting)

- Southern Berkshire Regional School District rep.—Jed Lipsky
- Town Clerk—Barbara Swann
- Town Moderator—Mark Makuc
- Fire Chief—Ray Tryon
- Highway Foreman—Don Amstead
- Police Chief—Gareth Backhaus
- Monterey Church Pastor—Keith Snow
- State Representative—Christopher Hodgkins
- State Senator—Jane Swift

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Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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At the Monterey News

• Peter Murkett- editor

Regular Essayists

• Mary Kate Jordan—astrology
• Bonner McAllester—natural history
• Peter Murkett—"Voxed"
• Joan Woodward Reed—"On the Road Again," from Alabama
• Pastor Keith Snow—Monterey church news
• A. O. Howell—"Upon My Word"
• David Quisenberry—Lake Garfield news
• Joyce Sheffey—Monterey Preservation Land Trust
• Deborah Mielke—School news
• Senator Jane Swift—"Senator Says"
• Representative Christopher Hodgkins—"Rep Rap"
• Many other folks in town contributed as reporters and letter writers.

Poetry

• Nancy Adams
• Shannon Amidon
• Sheldon Fenn
• Lesley Givet
• Asa Hardcastle
• Nick Hardcastle
• Gerald Hausman
• A. O. Howell
• John B. Humphrey
• Mary Kate Jordan
• Eleanor Kimberly
• Massimo Manjardo (age 8)
• David P. McAllester
• Marshall Messer
• Michelle Miller
• Melinda Olds
• Edith Wilson
• Richard Zubrowski

Artwork

• Joe Baker
• Sudi Baker
• Maureen Banner
• Christopher Carnese
• Erika Crofut
• Frank D'Amato
• Bonner McAllester
• Peter Murkett
• and numerous children

Monterey Architectural Photo Series

Maggie Leonard and Peter Murkett

The Autobiography of Hannah Climena Pixley

The first installment was published in December 1995 and ran through July 1996. Hannah Pixley was born in Monterey on October 24, 1862. She began the telling of her true life story at the age of seventy-four, still living in Monterey. Her story ended prematurely, leaving one to suspect that it was carried on in another journal, which was never found.

Her story was edited for length and cohesiveness, with commentary based on research by Peter Murkett and Ian Jenkins. A hardbound copy can be requested through CWMARS at the Monterey Library.

The drawing below, by an unknown artist, is of the house on Beartown Road where Hannah lived with her daughter, Mary. Hannah bought the house in 1904 and Mary, at age 68, sold it in 1953, when her mother died at the age of 91.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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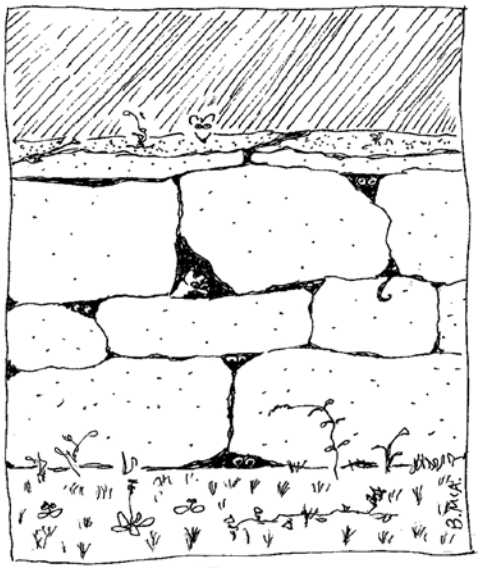
Life with Mice
No More Trapline

The mice that come into our houses are deer mice or white-footed mice, and people do not welcome them. They get into our goods, from soap to nuts, and when they stop to nibble they leave smelly little calling cards, also shreds and bits of this and that. Another thing they do is make food storage places. These are clean and tidy, meant to keep dry food safe for winter use on days when the foraging is not so good. For a few years we were finding wild cherry pits in our boots in the attic. Only the left boots! These pits had been meticulously cleaned of fruit, leaving the hard dry shell containing a wonderful almond-like nut.

One winter when we were working in Wyoming, we had mouse housemates in our log cabin. We had no cat, just a dog, and at night the mice raided the dog dish, taking away any uneaten dry kibble. If we sat up reading in the living room, we'd hear little skittering footsteps and see a mouse peeking over the edge of the dog dish. We decided to remove the varmints humanely and got out our live traps.

Both Joe and I had mouse trapping in our past careers as research biologists, me in Wyoming and him in New Jersey. In both states we'd caught white-footed mice, *peromyscus maniculatus*, and made notes for science before releasing them. Now here we were again, setting traps. We took the mice upriver to let them go in a haystack, but there were always more and more of them in our cabin. Finally we began marking them so we could see if they were just finding their way back, and sure enough, they were. One famous mouse, Old Two Dot, came back repeatedly. We'd made India ink dots on her ear. When we finally took her too far so she didn't show up again, her small babies began dropping out of the walls in our cabin, squeaking hungrily for their ma. Now we were up every couple of hours at night with the eye-dropper and canned milk, doing the best we could for teeny mice. They didn't make it.

Here we are again, considering our relationship with the white-footed mice in our log house. For forty years we have live-trapped them and taken them to the cemetery, letting them go in the stone wall with a token handful of birdseed or something tossed in after them. Guilt snacks.



Mouse life in the cemetery wall. A fantasy?

I always guessed there was a happy weasel just waiting inside that wall. In the winter, after a light snow, why did I not see lots of mouse tracks going in and out of the wall? So much for my fantasy of the mice from our place, happy to see each other over there with the birdseed. I even stuffed in pieces of old wool socks in case they wanted first-class nest material.

Our crops are in, some in the root cellar and some in the house cellar. We keep the apples, onions, and winter squash in our house cellar, and of course the mice find them. This year, instead of transporting our mice to a fantasy life at the cemetery, I sheathed some melon crates in hardware cloth so the mice can't get at the goods. They visit the storage place, but they can only look. I bring a buttercup squash upstairs for supper, scoop out its pulp and seeds, and put this in a pan to take to the chickens. The pan sits out in the summer kitchen overnight, and by morning we can see mice have visited it.

This morning I went digging in the closet for the cardboard box labeled "leather," as it is past time to put new soles on my moccasins. There is a folded-up piece of elk leather in there, which we tanned in our Wyoming days, and look what is inside! A lovely storage place: many shiny black seeds I have seen before somewhere, several cleaned buttercup squash seeds, and even some ash keys. Ash trees have sharp keys, a slim seed at one end like a spear point and then a wing out back to catch the wind and send it to its planting place in the woods. But our mouse found it, neatly nibbled off the wing, and carried it to the elk leather in the box in the closet upstairs.

I put it back just like I found it. Somebody worked hard for this. Considering those little shiny black seeds, I remembered the place I'd seen them was in the car! We have a small pouch hanging from

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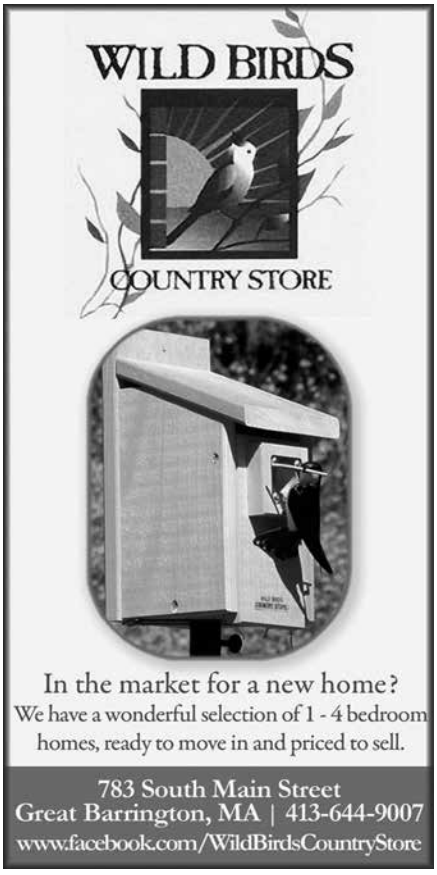
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the base of the stickshift. You can put a pen in it, or maybe a cellphone or sunglasses. About a year ago, it suddenly had these seeds in it. I tried planting a few then, but they didn't come up. Today, seeing them again, I had the idea they are pokeweed seeds. Turns out this is right, and I found out that most of us should not eat the glossy purple-black pokeberries, but there are many birds who do, and so do mice.

We have a cat, and when Lukey turns up with a mouse, he eats it, and I think this is probably better than that long ride to the stone wall by the cemetery. If the mouse had a batch of babies somewhere, then so be it. They will die, and some critter will benefit directly, some carrion beetle or bacterium. The rest of us in the community will benefit, too, as the little mouse molecules reassemble into something else in this living world.

I am better off without the trapline. In the words of that old Bob Dylan song, I just act like we never have met. I put the spare bars of soap in a big tin can and fasten hardware cloth around the apples and squashes. I don't feel okay any more about taking the mice someplace far away in case they can make a happy life there. I know it is a lie. Though I have a cat, I am not ready yet for the snap traps. I don't like the expression "wildlife management," because mostly it is not about good ideas for peaceful coexistence. Mostly it is more like snap traps.

— Bonner McAllester

In Rememberance
Frances M. Turner

July 2, 1927–December 13, 2015

Frances M. Turner was born in Great Barrington. Her parents were Julius D. Miner and Grace (Abercrombie) Miner. Frances grew up in Monterey and attended grammar school at Monterey Center School. Frances graduated in 1945 from the former Searles High School in Great Barrington and graduated from Middlebury College in 1949. She enjoyed her work in the Springfield Library for a year. Frances married Frederick Turner of Egremont on October 14, 1950. Ms. Turner served as an Egremont Library Trustee, was elected as Egremont representative to Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee (three terms), and was named to Massachusetts Board of Education by Governor Michael Dukakis (served five years). Frances and her husband owned and operated Turner Farms, Inc. in South Egremont for many years. She drove a school bus for Greg Massini Bus Company for almost thirty years. She also worked as a bookkeeper at Haupt Tree Company for ten years, and later as an assistant treasurer for the Town of Egremont. She was an organist and choir director of the South Egremont Congregational Church from 1952 until 1979. Frances served as the summer organist at Christ Church in Mt. Washington, MA from 1980 until present. She was a member of First Congregational Church in Great Barrington where she sang in the choir, and was a choir member at The Community Church in Vero Beach. She has been a part-time resident of Vero Beach since 1981. Frances accompanied her husband, Frederick, on People-to-People Trips to Europe, and one for a week in Russia in 1972, and another People-to-People Trip to Australia and New Zealand in 1974. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Egremont Fire Department, 175 Egremont Plain Rd, North Egremont, MA 01252 or Middlebury College, 14 Old Chapel Rd, Middlebury, VT 05753.

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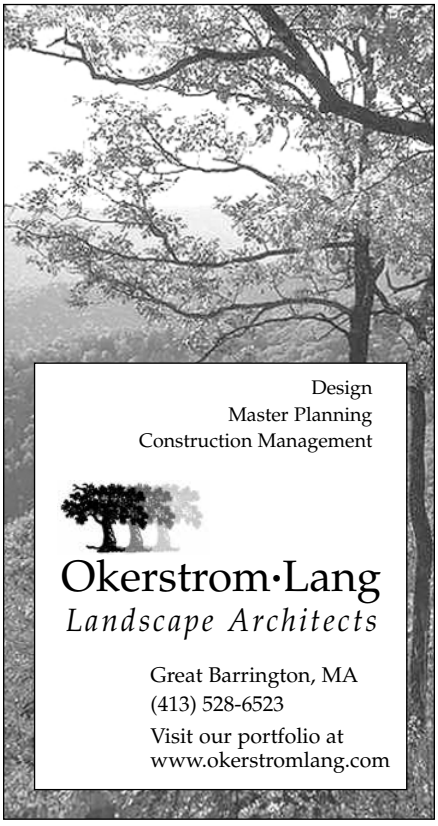

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Wildlife Report,
Mid-November to Mid-December

There were two mink sightings this month, the first by Michael Banner on Art School Road, in mid-November. He says it was long, thin, and black, with a long black tail. Then in early December as I drove in Cora Baker's driveway I noticed ripples in the pond there so stopped to see their source. They were emanating from right along the bank, and when I went to look, I startled a mink who swam about twenty feet to the rocky little island in the middle of the pond. It swam high in the water, unlike an otter or beaver, its back quite dry and visible right to the end of the dark furry tail. When it climbed out on the island and turned to look back at the danger (me), I could see the small white patch on its dark chest.

Bobcats have been stepping out lately, too. Marilyn Lombardo wrote of one crossing the yard and driveway up on Mt. Hunger Road, and Alex Tenari wrote in great happiness at the end of November. She'd been driving on Route 23 and was just east of Stevens Pond Road when a young bobcat ran across the road. "And I mean a baby," she wrote. "It couldn't have been more than three or four months old. It had a round face and a gloriously spotted coat, very light in color, and a stout bobbed tail. This kitten was in a gallop… Exciting sighting!"

Early in December, Allan Dean and I saw bobcats on the same afternoon. He is our near neighbor and his bobcat was in the yard, around the house, and then headed away. Mine was a flash of movement in our upper pasture, across the road from Allan's place. I turned to look and saw a big strong bobcat bounding across the slope of the pasture, the picture of robust good health and intention.

As of Thanksgiving evening, bears were still up and about. Alex writes that her friend saw two large adolescent black bears that night at the foot of his driveway where he lives on Cronk Road.

Another dark youngster showed up near here in mid-December. This was Blackling, the porcupine who visited our orchard so regularly back in October with her ma Frosty. Two months later, here she was alone on Hupi Road, browsing on some low vegetation, looking like she had seen better days back in apple time.

The red foxes are about. Marilyn Lombardo wrote of three under an apple tree, two of which were youngsters. Ed Salsitz saw a handsome fox in early December near the Clayton-Mill River Road. It was a frosty morning, and Ed took a great photograph of the fox, poised on a small rockpile, looking back.

Ed Salsitz

Send me your wild news. Plants, animals, fungi, algae, bacteria, all welcome here, dead or alive.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 bmca@berkshire.net.

P.O. Box 9
Trash to Thank-Yous

Beth, Ben, and Dave of the Monterey transfer station would like to thank all the people of Monterey who thought of us during this joyous time of year. In return we hope each and every one of you enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season.

Easy on the Jubilee

So glorious to be old like
a leaf turned brown with
torn edges, but still
turning on the wind.
Of course new green
leaves pulse and push.
Do not shove, young one.
Perhaps the two of us,
in time's odyssey,
will play a scene together
for a few moments.

—Nancy Adams
January, 1996

From *A Peacock Feather*, by Nancy Adams

My April Burn Pile
More Exciting than Expected

It was a beautiful day mid-April last year. After all the deep snow, the snow cover was finally gone (remember the snow lingering at the beginning of this past April?), leaving a set of nice, clear days, and the clock was running out on doing an open burn by May 1.

Last fall and early winter I cleared the edges of our field of all the blown-down branches. The wind whistles from the south through our tree line, which includes one matron tree who is shedding her branches and making herself available for the woodpeckers and the cavity nesters. So I made a smaller pile on our burn spot, and a bigger pile well away, near the edge of the field, to feed onto the fire. I like to keep the fire smaller if I can, especially in the beginning.

So I got my online permit that day. I took a couple of buckets of water, several rakes, a pitchfork, and a water bottle out to the spot. I raked hard a nice wide margin of the oak leaves well back from the fire area. The fire started nicely. Hmmm... surprisingly a bit too nicely, perhaps. And within a few minutes, for the first time in thirty-plus years of burn pile experience, I had a break-out, not in one or two spots, but in several spots. Scooting around quickly I raked them down and out, then the next and the next, and, oh crap, around and around. I'd done well with my preperatory raking, but then the berm of oak leaves out fifteen and twenty feet out from the fire's edge became a ring of fuel. The distance from one side of the break-out to the other grew from quick walking to racing distance.

Fortunately, Wendy showed up in the nick of time, and we both raked hard. Her being there gave me enough of a break to run and stretch out three lengths of hose to help cool things down.

Now I'm looking forward to this year's burn pile! I'm going to:

- mow a wide circle around my burn spot in very late fall, cutting the grass very short and removing all the leaves *(done)*;
- be on the lookout for a day when most, but not all, of the snow cover is gone, even if I have to dig a hole down into the snow, and when the wind is expected to be slow;
- draw the hose up to the burning spot the night before, and rake, then water a wet ring around the fire, and do the same the next morning (if the snow cover is scant);
- station at least three buckets of water; around the ring;
- start the fire with both of us on hand; and
- start the fire on the leeward side so the wind can't whoosh it into glory.

Decades of experience, and there's still plenty to learn.

But the very best part of this whole invigorating experience, was the acorns. 2014 had been a heavy mast year, and when all the oak leaves had burned off, along with the scalp of dead grass, we were left with what resembled a field of acorn gravel. More than fifty squirrels may have squirreled-away, but still there were plenty of oak trees-in-waiting.

—Stephen Moore

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Maureen Banner, August, 1996

Monterey's new fire truck.

Monterey's new fire truck, delivered in May of 1996, is still in service.

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the Monterey News to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, January 4, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, January12, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesday, January 13 and 27, at 10 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, January 14, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, January 14, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, January 6, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, January 14 and 28, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, January 4, 11, and 25, at 4:15 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Office/Town Hall Closings

Town hall will be closed Monday, January 18, for Martin Luther King Day.

The Administrative Assistant's office will be closed on Friday, January 22.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

The board wishes everyone a warm, safe holiday time. Articles will resume in February.

—Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(scott@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
For general inquires, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Dept.: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Dept.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Dept. (non-emergency):
528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Steve Weisz

On December 21 the select board hosted a holiday party for town employees and members of the various boards, departments, and commissions in Monterey. The reason for this party, was to thank them for the work they have done this year. About thirty-five people dropped in over the course of the two hours. Although it was a social occasion, it was also an opportunity for folks to meet each other and understand how each person plays such an important role in our town. —*Steve Weisz*

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings, 4:15 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission. See page 12 for a special session on January 12.

Tuesdays, January 5 and 12: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Tuesdays, January 12, 19. and 26: Duplicate Bridge club, 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the town hall. See page 7.

Through January 29: Knox Gallery group exhibition, *4 Elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air.* See page 9.

Wednesday, January 6: Berkshire County Beekeepers informational meeting on choosing equipment. 6 p.m., Monterey church. Contact Anne Shatas at anneshatas@yahoo.com

Thursday, January 14:

Foot Care clinic, 9 to 11:30, town hall meeting room. Call Maryellen Brown 528-1598 for an appointment.

Free blood pressure clinic, town hall meeting room, 2 to 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 16: Lenox Contra Dance from 8 to 11 p.m., new dancer session at 7:45. Live music by Coincidance (Eric Martin and friends), with all dances called and taught by Luke Danforth. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. lenoxcontradance.org

Wednesday, January 20:

Monterey News deadline.

Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., in church basement. Cookbook author Alana Chernila. See page 7.

Monday, January 23: Adult book group, *Snow Child*, Eowyn Ivey. 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

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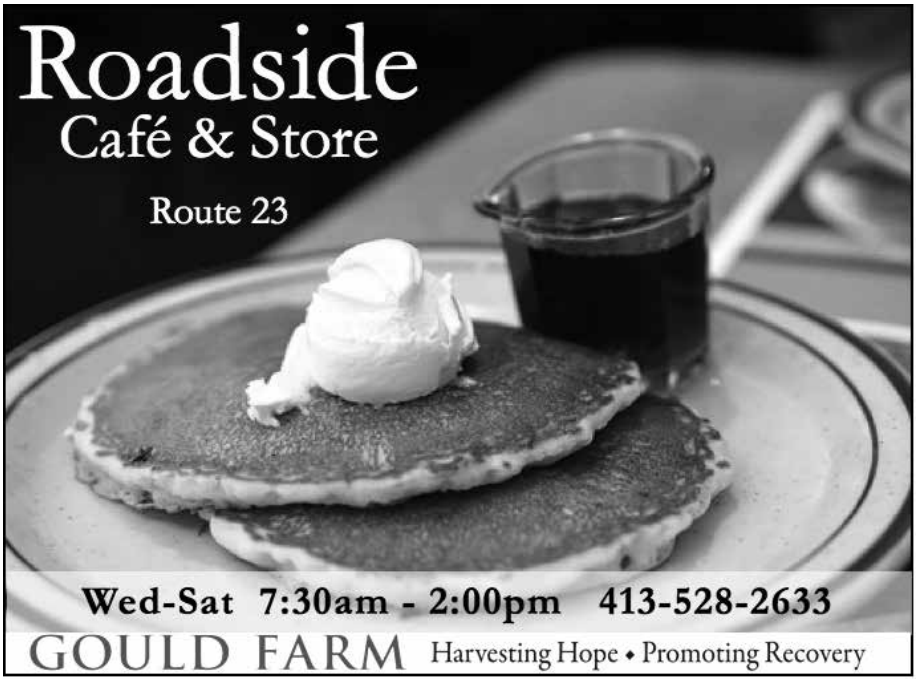

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

December 2015 Contributions

The winter months are a long way from the spring fundraising (and the cash balance shows this.) Your contributions at this time of year are especially appreciated.

Natalie Manzino
Glenn Heller
Michelle Scott

speaking of before
over
a plastic tablecloth
with tears in the corners
of our minds
of loves and other
dinners.
of self and other
loves.
curiosity in speaking
i'll be quiet for a while

—M. Miller
January, 1996

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Town Reporter.....Jill Pajka
Copy Editor.....Hannah Fries
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 7, 17, 25; Christopher Carnese, p. 15;
George Emmons, p. 12; Bonner McAllester, p. 12.

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